

PROPERTY AND INHERITANCE

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In concluding these remarks on property we may refer to the list given by Rutimeyer (*Globus* 1903) of Vedda objects of personal property in the Basle Museum, these are: 422

- (i) Bow and ordinary arrows with iron heads of different sizes.
- (ii) Elephant arrows (i.e. ceremonial arrows or *aude*).
- (iii) Simple sharpened wood arrows.
- (iv) Boy's bow with wooden arrows, being an exact facsimile of the iron tipped arrows.
- (v) Axes.
- (vi) Digging sticks.
- (vii) Drill for producing fire.
- (viii) Apron made of the bast of *Antiaris toxicaria* (*rifi* bark).
- (ix) Tortoise shell from the Danigala used as a dish.
- (x) Disc of wax from wild bees (trading-asset).
- (xi) Ball of bast cord for bow strings.
- (xii) Fire lighting appliances with hollowed areca nut for keeping tinder.
- (xiii) Earthenware pot hanging in a bast net.
- (xiv) Pouch made of squirrel skin.
- (xv) Kilt made of leaves.

To this Rutimeyer would add a *rifi* bark bag, the message stick referred to in the anonymous report of 1820, printed by Le Mesurier¹, and clay figures and marbles mentioned by Stevens, in order to have "a rather complete inventory of all utensils of the 'Nature Veddas.'" This list, however, omits dried deer skins and the skin and wooden honey-collecting utensils described in Chapter XI. Further, no mention is made of beads, which are certainly much appreciated by even the wilder Veddas (cf. Chapter XI).

¹ "The Veddas of Ceylon," by C. J. R. Le Mesurier, *Journal Roy. As. Soc., Ceylon Branch*, Vol. 12, 1886. The statement referred to will be found on p. 347 and runs as follows:—"They are totally unacquainted with letters, but the different tribes held a rude correspondence with each other with small pieces of wood cut into different shapes. Fugitives used to be furnished with passports of this kind, when they removed from one tribe to another, and the treatment they received depended on the recommendation which the talisman conveyed."

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